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WHITEHALL.

The following being the laſt Act of Parliament for the better preventing Theſts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of Publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes, is here inſerted for the Information of the Publick.

An Act for the better preventing Theſts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes.

WHEREAS the advertiſing a Reward with no Queſtions aſked, for the Return of Things which have been loſt or ſtolen, is one great Cauſe and Encouragement of Theſts and Robberies; be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That from and after the Firſt Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty two, any Perſon publickly advertiſing a Reward with no Queſtions aſked, for the Return of Things which have been ſtolen or loſt, or making uſe of any Words in ſuch publick Advertiſement, purporting, that ſuch Reward ſhall be given or paid, without ſeizing or making Enquiry after the Perſon producing ſuch Thing ſo ſtolen or loſt, or promiſing or offering, in any ſuch publick Advertiſement, to return to any Pawnbroker, or other Perſon, who may have bought or advanced Money by way of Loan, upon ſuch Thing ſo ſtolen or loſt, the Money ſo paid or advanced, or any other Sum of Money or Reward for the Return of ſuch Thing; and any Perſon printing or publiſhing ſuch Adviſement, ſhall reſpectively forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds for every ſuch Offence, to any Perſon who will ſue for the ſame.

And whereas the Multitude of Places of Entertainment for the lower Sort of People, is another great Cauſe of Theſts and Robberies, as they are thereby tempted to ſpend their ſmall Subſtance in riotous Pleaſures, and in Conſequence are put on unlawful Methods of ſupplying their Wants, and renewing their Pleaſures: In order therefore to prevent the ſaid Temptation to Theſts and Robberies, and to correct as far as may be the Habit of Idleneſs, which is become too general over the whole Kingdom, and is productive of much Miſchief and Inconvenience; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after the Firſt Day of December, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty two, any Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for publick Dancing, Muſick, or other publick Entertainment of the like Kind, in the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, or within Twenty Miles thereof, without a Licence had for that Purpoſe, from the laſt preceding Michaelmas Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, to be holden for the County, City, Riding, Liberty, or Diviſion, in which ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, is ſituate, (who are hereby authorized and impowered to grant ſuch Licences, as they in their Diſcretion ſhall think proper) ſignified under the Hands and Seals of Four or more of the Juſtices there aſſembled, ſhall be deemed a diſorderly Houſe or Place: And every ſuch Licence ſhall be ſigned and ſealed by the ſaid Juſtices in open Court, and afterwards be publickly read by the Clerk of the Peace, together with the Names of the Juſtices ſubſcribing the ſame; and no ſuch Licence ſhall be granted at any adjourned Seſſions; nor ſhall any Fee or Reward be taken for any ſuch Licence: And it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any Conſtable, or other Perſon being thereunto authorized, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of one or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, where ſuch Houſe or Place ſhall be ſituate, to enter ſuch Houſe or Place, and to ſeize every Perſon who ſhall be found therein, in order that they may be dealt with according to Law: And every Perſon keeping ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, without ſuch Licence as aforeſaid, ſhall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds to ſuch Perſon as will ſue for the ſame; and be otherwiſe puniſhable as the Law directs in Caſes of diſorderly Houſes.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That in order to give publick Notice what Places are licenſed purſuant to this Act, there ſhall be affixed and kept up in ſome notorious Place over the Door or Entrance of every ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, and ſo licenſed as aforeſaid, an Inſcription in large Capital Letters, in the Words following; videlicet, LICENSED PURSUANT TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF THE TWENTY FIFTH OF KING GEORGE THE SECOND; and that no ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, although licenſed as aforeſaid, ſhall be open for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, before the Hour of Five in the Afternoon; and that the affixing and keeping up of ſuch Inſcription as aforeſaid, and the ſaid Limitation or Reſtriction in Point of Time, ſhall be inſerted in, and made Conditions of, every ſuch Licence; and in Caſe of any Breach of either of the ſaid Conditions, ſuch Licence ſhall be forfeited, and ſhall be revoked by the Juſtices of the Peace in their next General or Quarter Seſſions, and

[Price Two Pence.]

and ſhall not be renewed; nor ſhall any new Licence be granted to the ſame Perſon or Perſons, or any other Perſon on his or their or any of their Behalf, or for their Uſe or Benefit, directly or indirectly, for keeping any ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, for any of the Purpoſes aforeſaid.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to the Theatres Royal in *Drury-Lane* and *Covent Garden*, or the Theatre commonly called *The King's Theatre* in the *Hay Market*, or any of them; nor to ſuch Performances and publick Entertainments, as are or ſhall be lawfully exerciſed and carried on under or by virtue of Letters Patents, or Licence of the Crown, or the Licence of the Lord Chamberlain of His Majeſty's Houſhold; any Thing herein contained notwithſtanding.

And in order to encourage Proſecutions againſt Perſons keeping Bawdy-houſes, Gaming-houſes, or other diſorderly Houſes, be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any two Inhabitants of any Pariſh or Place, paying Scot and bearing Lot therein, do give Notice in Writing to any Conſtable (or other Peace Officer of the like Nature, where there is no Conſtable) of ſuch Pariſh or Place, of any Perſon keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or any other diſorderly Houſe, in ſuch Pariſh, or Place, the Conſtable, or ſuch Officer as aforeſaid, ſo receiving ſuch Notice, ſhall forthwith go with ſuch Inhabitants to one of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, in which ſuch Pariſh or Place does lie; and ſhall, upon ſuch Inhabitants making Oath before ſuch Juſtice, that they do believe the Contents of ſuch Notice to be true, and entering into a Recognizance in the penal Sum of Twenty Pounds each, to give or produce material Evidence againſt ſuch Perſon for ſuch Offence; enter into a Recognizance in the penal Sum of Thirty Pounds, to proſecute with Effect ſuch Perſon for ſuch Offence at the next General or Quarter Seſſion of the Peace, or at the next Aſſizes to be holden for the County in which ſuch Pariſh or Place does lie, as to the ſaid Juſtice ſhall ſeem meet; and ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, ſhall be allowed all the reaſonable Expences of ſuch Proſecution, to be aſcertained by any Two Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, where the Offence ſhall have been committed, and ſhall be paid the ſame by the Overſeers of the Poor of ſuch Pariſh or Place; and in Caſe ſuch Perſon ſhall be convicted of ſuch Offence, the Overſeers of the Poor of ſuch Pariſh or Place ſhall forthwith pay the Sum of Ten Pounds to each of ſuch Inhabitants; and in Caſe ſuch Overſeers ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay to ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, ſuch Expences of the Proſecution as aforeſaid, or ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay upon Demand, the ſaid Sums of Ten Pounds and Ten Pounds, ſuch Overſeers, and each of them, ſhall forfeit to the Perſon intitled to the ſame, Double the Sum ſo refuſed or neglected to be paid.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That upon ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, entering into ſuch Recognizance to proſecute as aforeſaid, the ſaid Juſtice of the Peace ſhall forthwith make out his Warrant to bring the Perſon ſo accuſed of keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, before him, and ſhall bind him or her over to appear at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſion or Aſſizes, there to anſwer to ſuch Bill of Indictment as ſhall be found againſt him or her for ſuch Offence; and ſuch Juſtice ſhall and may, if in his Diſcretion he thinks fit, likewiſe demand and take Security for ſuch Perſons good Behaviour in the mean Time, and until ſuch Indictment ſhall be found, heard, and determined, or be returned by the Grand Jury not to be a true Bill.

Provided alſo, That in Caſe ſuch Conſtable ſhall neglect or refuſe, upon ſuch Notice, to go before any Juſtice of the Peace, or to enter into ſuch Recognizance, or ſhall be wilfully negligent in carrying on the ſaid Proſecution, he ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds to each of ſuch Inhabitants ſo giving Notice as aforeſaid.

And whereas, by reaſon of the many ſubtle and crafty Contrivances of Perſons keeping Bawdy-houſes, Gaming-houſes, or other diſorderly Houſes, it is difficult to prove who is the real Owner or Keeper thereof, by which Means many notorious Offenders have eſcaped Puniſhment; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon who ſhall at any Time hereafter appear, act, or behave him or herſelf, as Maſter or Miſtreſs, or as the Perſon having the Care, Government, or Management of any Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, ſhall be deemed and taken to be the Keeper thereof, and ſhall be liable to be proſecuted and puniſhed as ſuch, notwithſtanding he or ſhe ſhall not in Fact be the real Owner or Keeper thereof.

Provided nevertheleſs, That upon any ſuch Proſecution againſt any Perſon for keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, any Perſon may give Evidence againſt the Defendant, or on Behalf of the Defendant, in ſuch Proſecution, notwithſtanding his or her being an Inhabitant or Pariſhioner of the ſaid Pariſh or Place, or having entered into ſuch Recognizance as aforeſaid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That no Indictment which ſhall at any Time after the ſaid Firſt Day of June, be preferred againſt any Perſon for keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, ſhall be removed by any Writ of Certiorari into any other Court; but ſuch Indictment ſhall be heard, tried, and finally determined, at the ſame General or Quarter Seſſion or Aſſizes, where ſuch Indictment ſhall have been preferred (unleſs the Court ſhall think proper, upon Cauſe ſhewn, to adjourn the ſame) any ſuch Writ or Allowance thereof notwithſtanding.

And whereas many Perſons are deterred from proſecuting Perſons guilty of Felony, upon account of the Expence attending ſuch Proſecutions, which is another great Cauſe and Encouragement of Thefts and Robberies; in order therefore to encourage the bringing Offenders to Juſtice, be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be in the Power of the Court, before whom any Perſon has been tried and convicted of any Grand or Petit Larceny, or other Felony, at the Prayer of the Proſecutor, and on Conſideration of his Circumſtances, to order the Treaſurer of the County in which the Offence ſhall have been committed, to pay unto ſuch Proſecutor ſuch Sum of Money as to the ſaid Court ſhall ſeem reaſonable, not exceeding the Expences which it ſhall appear to the Court the Proſecutor was put unto in carrying on ſuch Proſecution, making him a reaſonable Allowance for his Time and Trouble therein; which Order the Clerk of Aſſize, or Clerk of the Peace reſpectively, is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and to deliver unto ſuch Proſecutor, upon being paid for the ſame the Sum of One Shilling, and no more; and the Treaſurer of the County is hereby authorized and required, upon Sight of ſuch Order, forthwith to pay to ſuch Proſecutor, or other Perſon authorized to receive the ſame, ſuch Sum of Money as aforeſaid, and ſhall be allowed the ſame in his Accounts.

And, for the better diſcovering and bringing to Juſtice, Thieves, Robbers, and other Perſons maintaining themſelves by pilfering and defrauding Mankind; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any Two or more

more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, in any County, City, or Liberty, in Caſe any Perſon apprehended, upon any general Privy Search, or by virtue of any ſpecial Warrant, ſhall be charged before them with being a Rogue and Vagabond, or an idle and diſorderly Perſon, or with Suſpicion of Felony, (although no direct Proof be then made thereof) to examine ſuch Perſon upon Oath, not only as to the Pariſh or Place where he was laſt legally ſettled, but alſo as to his Means of Livelihood; the Subſtance of which Examination ſhall be put into Writing, and be ſubſcribed or ſigned by the Perſon ſo examined; and the ſaid Juſtices ſhall likewiſe ſign the ſame, and tranſmit it to the next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden for the ſame County, City, or Liberty, there to be filed, and to be kept on Record: And if ſuch Perſon ſhall not make it appear to ſuch Juſtices, that he has a lawful Way of getting his Livelihood, or ſhall not procure ſome reſponſible Houſe-keeper to appear to his Character, and to give Security for his Appearance before ſuch Juſtices, at ſome other Day to be fixed for that Purpoſe (in caſe the ſame ſhall be required) to commit ſuch Perſon to ſome Priſon, or Houſe of Correction, for any Time not exceeding ſix Days; and in the mean Time to order the Overſeers of the Poor, or one of them, of the Pariſh or Place in which ſuch Perſon ſhall be apprehended, to inſert an Advertiſement in ſome publick Paper, deſcribing ſuch ſuſpicious Perſon, and any Thing or Things which ſhall have been found upon him, or in his Cuſtody, and which he ſhall be ſuſpected not to have come honeſtly by, and mentioning the Place to which ſuch Perſon is committed, and ſpecifying the Time and Place when and where ſuch Perſon is to be again brought before them to be re-examined; and if no Accuſation ſhall be then laid againſt him, then ſuch Perſon ſhall be diſcharged, or otherwiſe dealt with according to Law.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon intitled to any of the Forfeitures by this Act impoſed, may ſue for the ſame by Action of Debt, in any of his Majeſty's Courts of Record at Weſtminſter, in which it ſhall be ſufficient to declare, That the Defendant is indebted to the Plaintiff in the Sum of being forfeited by an Act, intituled, *An Act for the better preventing Thefts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes*; and the Plaintiff, if he recover in any ſuch Action, ſhall have his full Coſts.

Provided, That no Action ſhall be brought by virtue of this Act, unleſs the ſame ſhall be commenced within the Space of ſix Calendar Months, after the Offence committed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That this Act ſhall continue in Force until the Expiration of three Years, to be computed from the firſt Day of this Seſſion of Parliament; and from thence to the End of the then next Seſſion of Parliament, and no longer.

Naples, April 4. The St. Charles Man of War, and the Frigat named the Conception, which put to Sea a few Days ago on a Cruize againſt the Barbary Pyrates, have been obliged to put back again into our Road by contrary Winds.

Florence, April 8. A few Days ago Count Richecourt, Preſident of our Council of the Regency, received an Expreſs from Vienna, with the Copy of a new Convention lately concluded between the Imperial Court and the Regencies of Barbary, which he has ſince communicated to the Government of Leghorn, who are ordered to conform thereto.

Trieſte, April 8. The Merchants of this Place are indefatigable in promoting our new Manufactures, and the Commerce of this Port, agreeable to the Directions of her Imperial Majeſty. The Captain of a Dutch Ship arrived here lately from the Levant, ſays, that he was boarded by a Tuneſian Corſair at the Mouth of the Adriatick Gulph, and, notwithſtanding he produced authentick Paſſports, yet, under divers frivolous Pretences, they carried off a good Quantity of Proviſions and ſome Merchandizes.

Turin, April 10. The King having been informed, that ſince the Concluſion of the new Convention between the Court of Vienna and the Regencies of Barbary, the Corſairs of thoſe Pyratical States have greatly infeſted the Coaſts of Sardinia, and interrupted the Commerce of his Majeſty's Subjects, has ordered ſeveral armed Veſſels to be fitted out at Nice and Villafranca, in order to protect thoſe Coaſts.

Parma, April 12. The Revenues of the Dutchies of Parma and Placentia not being ſufficient to ſupport the Expences of the Duke our Sovereign's Court, his Royal Highneſs has obtained of the King of Spain his Brother, an Augmentation of 150000 Piaſtres yearly to his Penſion. A Reſolution has been taken to build Bridges at ſeveral Places in this Dutchy, for the Conveniency of Travelling in the Winter. On Monday laſt their Royal Highneſſes ſet out for Colorno with the whole Court, where they propoſe to ſpend great Part of the Summer.

Genoa, April 12. 'Tis ſaid the Government have received Letters from Corſica, with Advice, that the Malecontents of that Iſland, to the Number of about 6000 Men, had taken up Arms, and committed ſome Acts of Hoſtility againſt the Troops of the Republick. On the 1ſt Inſtant we had a moſt violent Storm of Wind, which drove many Ships from their Anchors, and did conſiderable Damage along the Coaſt.

Frankfort, April 17. The Elector of Cologn, accompanied by a numerous Retinue, arrived here laſt Night from Mergentheim, and was ſaluted with a triple Diſcharge of the Cannon upon our Ramparts. This Morning his Highneſs took a View of the Fair; and having received the Compliments of the Magiſtrates of this City, continued his Journey for Cologn.

Hambourg, April 18. According to our laſt Letters from Dreſden, they were making Preparations for the Court's Journey to Leipſick, on Occaſion of the approaching Fair. The ſame Letters add, that Prince Charles-Chriſtian, who has been extremely ill with the Small Pox, is now perfectly recovered.

Hague, April 27. We learn from Utrecht, that his Grace the Duke of Newcaſtle arrived there on Tueſday Night laſt, from whence his Grace ſet out early Yeſterday Morning for Daventer. The Baron de Nagel took Yeſterday his Seat in the Aſſembly of the States General, on the Part of the Province of Guelderland.

Navy-Office, April 20, 1752.

The principal Officers and Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Navy give Notice, That on Wedneſday the 13th of May, they will be ready to treat with ſuch Perſons as ſhall be inclinable to ſerve into his Majeſty's Stores at Deptford, a Quantity of Engliſh Canvas, that they may attend with their Propoſals at that Time; and ſuch Perſons as are Reſidents in the Country, and do not chuſe to attend on the Day of Treaty, will, by ſending a Letter to the ſaid Commiſſioners, tendering their Quantities and loweſt Prices, be entitled to an equal Proportion with other Perſons, provided their Demands are as reaſonable. And ſuch Perſons as intend to treat for the ſeveral Sorts of Canvas uſed in the Navy, from N° 1. to N° 8. inclusive, are to take Notice, that it is expected they fall in their Prices in the ſeveral Numbers according to Cuſtom, which they are to ſignify their Approval of in their Tenders.

Victualling-